

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE  
to  
Admiral Stansfield Turner  
and Address by  
The President

9 March 1977  
Headquarters Auditorium

(Mr. Knoche)

Mr. President, Mr. Justice White, Admiral and Mrs. Turner, distinguished members of the Cabinet, distinguished members of the Congress, honored guests, men and women of the Intelligence Community, we meet here today for the Oath of Office to be administered to Admiral Stansfield Turner, the 12th Director of Central Intelligence. The Oath will be administered by Justice Byron White. Please step forward.

(Justice White) Repeat after me, please.

(ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE)

(Justice White)

Mr. Director!

(Admiral Turner)

Mr. President, on behalf of all of the Intelligence Community which is represented here today, as well as myself, may I thank you for honoring the Intelligence Community of the United States by being here this afternoon.

When you called me back from Naples to tell me that you wanted me to leave the NATO Command over there to become the Director of Central Intelligence, I soon found that your reputation as a great persuader was indeed well earned. A week ago this very day, however, as I stood outside under a magnificent warm, blue sky in Naples and turned over that NATO Command, I began to question my judgment. Then I arrived here today and find that this improbable time of year, this absolutely equally magnificent weather, and I now know that you are truly the great persuader. Seriously, Sir, I thank you for your confidence in me. I assure you that I will bend my every effort to fulfill the mandate you have given me well. I also am confident that every man and woman of the Intelligence Community will do the same--together we will endeavor to give you that objective intelligence which you need for your decision making. Thank you.

Men and women of the Intelligence Community, I ask your full loyalty and support. I pledge to you my full loyalty and my effort to insure that our combined professional skills will serve our country in the best possible manner. Mr. Justice White, Senator Inouye, representatives of the Congress, members of the Cabinet, members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, distinguished guests, may I also express on behalf of the Community and myself our appreciation for your great courtesy in being with us today. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor to introduce to you the President of the United States, the Honorable Jimmy Carter.

(The President)

A long time ago at the Naval Academy I shared the responsibility of being a Midshipman with Stan Turner. I didn't know him personally; or rather I knew him but he didn't know me. He was the leader of our class. He was superlative in everything he did in athletics, military bearing and leadership capabilities, and academics. He was a source of so much admiration among his classmates that there was not a competitive feeling; nor was there one of jealousy--he was superb. Later he tried for Rhodes Scholarship; so did I. He was selected by the committee; I was not. I might say the committee made the right decision.

Not too long ago I was faced with the responsibility of choosing a new Director for a Community that has been investigated and perhaps damaged by revelation of past mistakes--a Community that inherently is divided, but which shares a common responsibility and a common purpose. A Community that must face the most difficult possible conflicts between openness and frankness and public scrutiny inherent in the principle of a democracy with a mandatory requirement for confidentiality in the collection of crucial intelligence information and relationship with our allies and friends throughout the world. I was faced with the responsibility of choosing someone who could deal with these complications. When I decided to ask Stan Turner to be the Director of Central Intelligence, I did it with a sense of relief, a

sense of sure judgment, and a sense of confidence. I believe that in the coming months there can be some basic and necessary changes, most of which have been pointed out to me by the highly professional men and women who serve in the Intelligence Community in the most enlightened, proper and dedicated way. There must be a closer relationship between the customers like the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and Congress, who receive analyses of intelligence information on one hand; and those who search out the details in thousands of places around the globe to put together advice on which the very existence of our country must depend. So, I would like to see in the future the establishment of priorities and tasks to be described much more clearly by the customers-- those of us who must have accurate information and the right kind of information. I'll do all I can working with past Directors who are here, and the Secretary of Defense who is here, and the Attorney General who is here, and other leaders who are here, to let the American people have an accurate assessment and the deepest possible commitment that every action of the Intelligence Community, now and in the future, will be legal and proper. I've just met with some of the leaders of all the seven, eight or nine agencies that are involved in this collective effort; and I told them that as President that I know I'm going to make mistakes, and I know

that within the broad and sprawling and sometimes confused entity that must be an Intelligence Community, that mistakes are going to be made. But when they are made--when any impropriety or illegality does occur--I want to know about it immediately because a concealment of a mistake and its subsequent revelation will be a devastating additional blow that is not necessary to the esteem and integrity that all of you so richly deserve. I've got a lot to learn as a new President and we must reassess constantly the kind of information that is derived, how it is presented to me, and the proper placement of priorities in the assignment of personnel and financial effort in different parts of the world. There must be a constant and a clear delineation of responsibility between the FBI and the intelligence agencies so that we can do what is legal again. We must narrowly define which people need to know sensitive information so that we can let those who need information have it, but not overly spread particularly damaging information that prevails among those who might reveal it inadvertently. We also must decide how to distinguish between useful information to a recipient and the techniques or sources of that information which the recipient does not need, but which if revealed, might sever the friendship between ourselves and other nations or cause danger or loss of a life of those who are helping to serve

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us in the collection of information. This is such an extremely complicated effort that I have been impressed with a need for forceful leadership. I have no doubt that Admiral Stansfield Turner can provide that leadership. He needs your help and he needs my help; and those with whom he works need the support and confidence of the American people. His own integrity is the surest guarantee that no future abuses will embarrass us, and I know that all of you share with me the deepest appreciation to him for being willing to undertake this enormous task. I think the good ground work that has been laid by Dr. Jim Schlesinger and George Bush--who are in front of me--and other leaders, will be a rich opportunity for him to make even better progress in the future. So, to all those men and women who have served in the past and who serve now to help protect our nation's security, I say thank you; and to Stan Turner, who will be your leader and my closest possible associate in the future, I say again thank you. I'm part of your effort and you're part of mine, and to the extent that we can share this partnership, we can carve out for our nation and perhaps even the world a clearer sense of what peace might be and a more sure realization of that peace which is the goal of us all. Thank you very much for letting me participate in this fine ceremony.